

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are pending in the application. Applicants believe, as set forth below, that Claims 1-11 are in condition for allowance and respectfully request allowance of same.

Amendments to the Specification and Claims

Applicants draw the Examiner's attention to the Preliminary Amendment received by the Patent Office on September 1, 2006, as noted in the PAIR online Image File Wrapper. The amendments to the Specification and claims in the Preliminary Amendment addressed some informalities in the specification and claims. The amendments were not included in the Publication of this application and have not, as of yet, been entered into the record.

Accordingly, Applicants have repeated those amendments to the Specification and to the Claims herein, and respectfully request that the Examiner officially enter same into the record for this application.

Rejection of Claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,569,476 to van Manen, et al. ("Van Manen"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claims 1-9

Van Manen teaches an injection molding machine having a rotatable turret 43 on which are mounted four receiving plates 44, 45, 46, 47 that are arranged as two pairs of plates which face one another, as depicted in Figure 5, reproduced below. Protruding orthogonally outward from the receiving plates 44-46 are conditioning cavities.

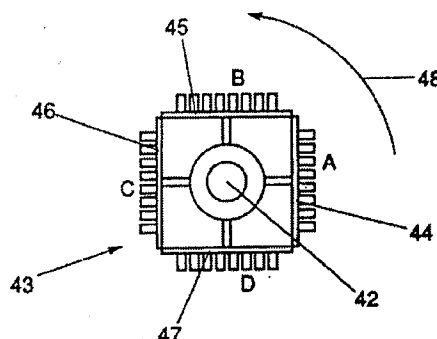


FIG. 5

The individual conditioning cavities of Van Manen do not extend into the rotatable turret 43 itself, and no part of their length lies side by side with other conditioning cavities located on the opposite receiving plate.

In contrast, Claim 1 recites, among other recitations:

a first side of the turret on which the respective insertion openings of the first cavities are located; and

a second side of the turret facing the first side on which are located the respective insertion openings of the second cavities, the first conditioning cavities being located in such a way as to be side by side with the second conditioning cavities for at least part of their own length.

An embodiment of the claimed arrangement is depicted in Figure 4A, reproduced below.

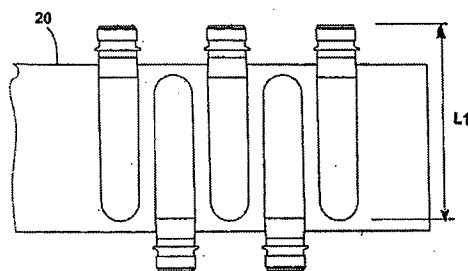


Fig. 4A

As taught in paragraphs [0027] – [0028] and elsewhere throughout the text, several useful advantages may be attributed to this arrangement, in which the conditioning cavities are located within the rotatable turret 20. For example, the arrangement may allow for a thinner and more compact turret that can be inserted between two open halves of a mould, resulting in a simpler mechanical structure to the conditioning device overall.

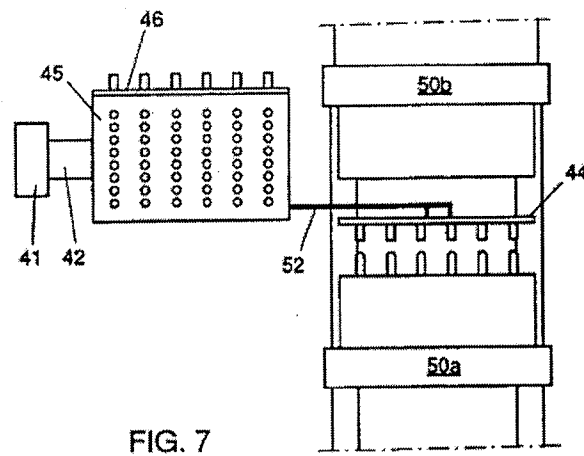
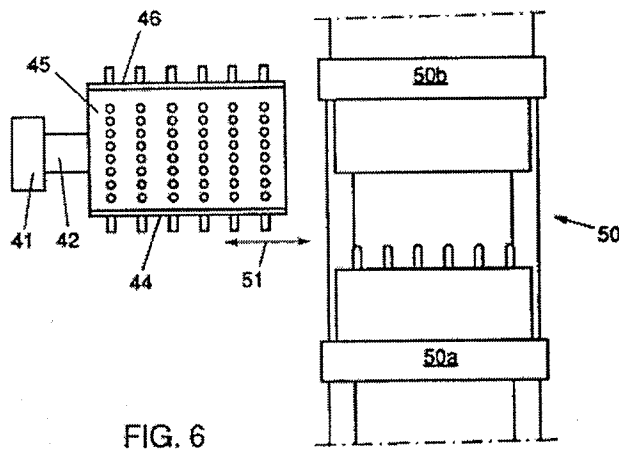
Van Manen does not teach, and actually teaches away from, the conditioning cavities of one side 46 of the rotatable turret being located in such a way as to be “side by side for at least a portion of their own length” with respect to the conditioning cavities from a facing side 44 of the rotatable turret 43. As will be described and illustrated below with respect to Claims 10 and 11, Van Manen teaches extending or sliding a receiving plate 44-46, with its respective conditioning cavities, off the side of the rotatable turret 43. Arranging Van Manen’s conditioning cavities so that they could lie “side by side” with the conditioning cavities of the opposing plate would include arranging the cavities to extend backwards into the rotatable turret 43. This arrangement would actually impede the ability to extend the receiving plate off the rotatable turret, which is an important feature of Van Manen’s teachings.

Accordingly, Van Manen does not teach each and every element of Claim 1 and, therefore, does not anticipate Claim 1. Furthermore, Claims 2-9 each depend, either directly or indirectly, from Claim 1. Claims 2-9 are therefore also patentably distinct from the Van Manen reference in view of their dependencies from Claim 1. In addition, at least some of these dependent claims recite additional patentable distinctions over the references.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection and the allowance of Claims 1-9.

Claim 10-11

Figures 6 and 7 of Van Manen, reproduced below, show two stages of a process taught by Van Manen. In both figures, an upper half 50b and a lower half 50a of a die 50 (or mould) are open and apart from one another, with the turret apparatus adjacent and outside of the mould.



U.S. Appl. No. : 10/591,731
Filing Date : September 1, 2006

Figure 7 shows an extendable arm 52, extending from the turret apparatus and inserting one of the receiving plates 44 in between the two open halves 50a, 50 b of the mould. The rotatable turret remains outside of the mould, and, indeed, is too bulky to fit inside the mould.

In contrast, Claim 10 recites, among other recitations,

introducing the rotating turret in the middle of the two open halves of a warm forming mould; ...
extracting the rotating turret from the two said open halves of the mould...

The more compact arrangement of the present invention enables the entire turret to be inserted into the mould and allows for a simpler mechanism that does not require extendable arms.

Accordingly, Van Manen does not teach each and every element of Claim 10 and, therefore, does not anticipate Claim 10. Furthermore, Claim 11 depends directly from Claim 10, and is therefore also patentably distinct from the Van Manen reference in view of their dependencies from Claim 10. In addition, Claim 11 recites additional patentable distinctions over the references.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection and the allowance of Claims 10-11.

Applicants have made a good faith effort to respond to all of the comments of the Examiner. If any issues remain, please contact the Applicants' agent at the number listed below.

No Disclaimers or Disavowals

Although the present communication may include alterations to the application or claims, or characterizations of claim scope or referenced art, Applicants are not conceding in this application that previously pending claims are not patentable over the cited references. Rather, any alterations or characterizations are being made to facilitate expeditious prosecution of this application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue at a later date any previously pending or other broader or narrower claims that capture any subject matter supported by the present disclosure, including subject matter found to be specifically disclaimed herein or by any prior prosecution. Accordingly, reviewers of this or any parent, child or related prosecution history shall not

U.S. Appl. No. : 10/591,731
Filing Date : September 1, 2006

reasonably infer that Applicants have made any disclaimers or disavowals of any subject matter supported by the present application.

Co-Pending Applications of Assignee

Applicants wish to draw the Examiner's attention to the following co-pending applications of the present application's assignee.

Docket No.	Serial No.	Title	Filed
NOTAR10.003APC	10/594,367	Injection Device	22-Sept-2006
NOTAR10.004APC	11/547,425	Apparatus for Blow Moulding of Plastic Objects	29-Sept-2006
NOTAR10.005APC	11/597,396	Mould Holding Cross Member for a Moulding Press and Press Comprising Said Cross Member	22-Nov-2006
NOTAR10.006APC	11/629,587	Plastic Bottle and Process for Affixing a Shrinkable Label Thereon	14-Dec-2006
NOTAR10.007APC	12/063,232	Apparatus and Process for Drying Plastic Material for A Machine Used to Produce Plastic Containers	07-Feb-2008
NOTAR10.008APC	12/063,025	Injection System	05-Feb-2008
NOTAR10.009APC	12/066,652	Heating Device for Plastic Preforms	12-Mar-2008
NOTAR10.010APC	12/302,272	Container Coating System and Process	24-Nov-2008

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

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